

1 July, 1954

2
3 **SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT**

4
5 **ARTICLE I**

6
7 The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the
8 Southeastern region of the United States by the development of integrated forest fire plans, by the
9 maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member states, by providing for mutual
10 aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the region and with states which are
11 party to other Regional Forest Fire Protection compacts or agreements, and for more adequate
12 forest protection.

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14 **ARTICLE II.**

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16 This compact shall become operative immediately as to those states ratifying it whenever any two
17 or more of the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South
18 Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, which are contiguous have ratified it and
19 Congress has given consent thereto. Any state not mentioned in this article which is contiguous
20 with any member state may become a party to this compact, subject to approval by the legislature
21 of each of the member states.

22
23 **ARTICLE III.**

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25 In each state, the state forester or officer holding the equivalent position who is responsible for
26 forest fire control shall act as compact administrator for that state and shall consult with like
27 officials of the other member states and shall implement cooperation between such states in forest
28 fire prevention and control.

29
30 The compact administrators of the member states shall coordinate the services of the member states
31 and provide administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of this compact. There shall be
32 established an advisory committee of legislators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry
33 or forest products industries representatives which shall meet from time to time with the compact
34 administrators. Each member state shall name one member of the Senate and one member of the
35 House of Representatives who shall be designated by that state's commission On interstate
36 cooperation, or if said commission cannot constitutionally designate the said members, they shall
37 be designated in accordance with laws of that state; and the Governor of each member state shall
38 appoint two representatives, one of whom shall be associated with forestry or forest products
39 industries to comprise the membership of the advisory committee. Action shall be taken by a
40 majority of the compacting states, and each shall be entitled to one vote.

41
42 The compact administrators shall formulate and, in accordance with need, from time to time revise
43 a regional forest fire plan for the member states. It shall be the duty of each member state to
44 formulate and put in effect a forest fire plan for that state and take such measures as may be
45 necessary to integrate such forest fire plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated the compact
46 administrators.

1 **ARTICLE IV.**

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3 Whenever the state forest fire control agency of a member state requests aid from the state forest
4 fire control agency of any other member state in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires,
5 it shall be the duty of the state forest fire control agency of that state to render all possible aid to the
6 requesting agency which is consonant with the maintenance of protection at home.
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8 **ARTICLE V.**

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10 Whenever the forces of any member state are rendering outside aid pursuant to the request of
11 another member state under this compact, the employees of, such state shall, under the direction of
12 the officers of the state to which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (except the power of
13 arrest), duties, rights, privileges and immunities as comparable employees of the state to which
14 they are rendering aid.
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16 No member state or its officers or employees rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall
17 be liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on
18 account of the maintenance; or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith: Provided,
19 that nothing herein shall be construed as relieving any person from liability for his own negligent
20 act or omission, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or omission upon any state.
21

22 All liability, except as otherwise provided hereinafter, that may arise either under the laws of the
23 requesting state or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of a third state on account of
24 or in connection with a request for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting state.
25

26 Any member state rendering, outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the
27 member state receiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of
28 any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages,
29 salaries, and subsistence of employees and maintenance of equipment incurred in connection with
30 such request: Provided, that, herein contained shall prevent any assisting member state from
31 assuming such loss, damage, expense or other cost or from loaning such equipment or from
32 donating such service to the receiving member state without charge or cost.
33

34 Each member state shall provide for the payment of compensation and death benefits to injured
35 employees and the representatives of deceased employees in case employees sustain injuries or are
36 killed while rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same
37 terms as if the injury or death were sustained within such state.
38

39 For the purposes of this compact the term employee shall include any volunteer or auxiliary legal
40 included within the forest fire fighting forces of the aiding state under the laws thereof.
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42 The compact administrators shall formulate procedures for claims and reimbursement under the
43 provisions of this article, in accordance laws of the member states.
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1 **ARTICLE VI.**

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3 Ratification of this, compact shall not be construed to affect any existing statute so as to authorize
4 or permit curtailment or diminution of the forest fire fighting forces, equipment, services or
5 facilities of any member state.

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7 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or restrict the powers of any state ratifying the
8 same to provide for the prevention, control and extinguishment of forest fires, or to prohibit the
9 enactment of enforcement of state laws, rules or regulations intended to aid in such prevention,
10 control and extinguishment in such state.

11
12 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any existing or future cooperative relationship
13 or arrangement between a federal agency and a member state or states.

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15 **ARTICLE VII.**

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17 The compact administrators may request the United States Forest Service to act as research and
18 coordinating agency of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact in cooperation
19 with the appropriate agencies in each state, and the United States Forest Service may accept
20 responsibility for preparing and presenting, to the compact administrators its recommendations
21 with respect to the regional fire plan. Representatives of any federal agency engaged in forest fire
22 prevention and control may attend meetings of the compact administrators.

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24 **ARTICLE VIII.**

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26 The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact which relate to mutual aid in combating,
27 controlling, or preventing, forest fires shall be operative as between any state party to this compact
28 and any other state which is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region:
29 Provided, that the legislature of such other state shall have given its assent to such mutual aid
30 provisions of this compact.

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32 **ARTICLE IX.**

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34 This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each state ratifying it until the
35 legislature or the Governor of such state, as the laws of such state shall provide, takes action to
36 withdraw there from. Such action shall not be effective until six months after notice thereof has
37 been sent by the chief executive of the state desire to withdraw to the chief executives of all states
38 then parties to the compact.

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40 **SEC. 2.** Without further submission of the compact, the consent of Congress is given to any State
41 to become a party to it in accordance with its terms.

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43 **SEC. 3.** The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is expressly reserved.